

MTA-1009

3 April 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Tel Aviv Bureau--March 1981

1. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

An increase in the number of items of interest to FBIS consumers transmitted by Turkey's government-controlled broadcasting stations and press agency resulted in the Turkish section's processing of 65,500 words in March. That figure is the highest for the section since 103,000 words were wirefiled in September 1980--the month in which a coup occurred. The total for March included 16,900 words processed from the ANATOLIA NEWS AGENCY, an all-time high for that service.

The Hebrew section was on the alert throughout the month for Israeli radio reports on the increased tension in southern Lebanon resulting from the UNIFIL commander's decision to allow Lebanese army troops to advance in the enclave controlled by Maj Sa'd Haddad's militia. Embassy consumers were also interested in reports on several Israeli Defense Force raids on suspected terrorist bases in Lebanon. As the month drew to a close, the security situation in Lebanon appeared to be deteriorating and monitors were instructed to process expeditiously Israeli media reports on military clashes in Haddad's area.

B. Lateral Services

On 7 March Ambassador Samuel Lewis requested that FBIS furnish him with copies of all material, both incoming and outgoing, on the proposed sale of F-15 aircraft accessory equipment to Saudi Arabia. The possibility of such a sale has created strong negative reaction from Israeli government and Knesset members.

In response to a request by ICA's Media Relations Division in the Embassy for items on Maj Haddad's initial threat to shell Sidon, an OO service message was sent to Nicosia bureau on 9 March requesting a refile of NC011236, an FYI on a 45-minute speech by Haddad to the Lebanese people on 1 March. The item was promptly refiled by Nicosia and delivered to the ICA office.

In an effort to simplify and facilitate changes in lateral servicing, the bureau--at the suggestion and under the direction of senior editor [] has compiled an alphabetical listing of all consumers appearing on Tel Aviv's pre-cut tapes. Under this system the editors and teletypists need only look up the consumer on the list to determine which tapes must be modified to reflect a change in lateral servicing.

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C. Technical

Regional engineer [] concluded his extremely useful TDY at the bureau on 8 March. The two local technicians, [] have subsequently made a dent in the list of yet-to-be done projects compiled by []. Most notably, [] placed an Arabic printer on line; cruising monitor [] done some preliminary cruising on it.

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The third and final remote receiver was installed at Gal-on and activated on 5 March.

The bureau technicians have constructed an adjustable loop power supply for use with the bureau's Extel teleprinters. The device, built for the most part with inexpensive locally procured materials, enables them to check on the operations of the teleprinters in the workshop instead of in "on line" positions in the communications room.

11. ADMINISTRATION

Hebrew monitor-trainee [] resigned on 21 March. The bureau does not plan to recruit to fill the vacancy until the status of senior monitor [] is resolved. [] is currently awaiting a ruling from OPM on his appeal for disability retirement.

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Teletypist [] was promoted to FSN-5 during the month

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III. VISITS

[] began a three-week TDY in Abidjan and Dakar to conduct a cruising survey of transmitters in West Africa.

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London Bureau senior editors [] briefly stopped in at the bureau during private travel to Israel.

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Chief, Tel Aviv Bureau

Attachments; A. Production Report
 B. Filed Wordage Report
 C. Communications Report